

Your opening paragraph
is omitted - Only charge
is Saddam is carried
as Hussein wherever you
have mentioned him.

Roy only knows 1/24/91

With the experienced reporter's critical eye and questioning judgment of which he has also boasted, Roy Meachum now says that suddenly Saddam Hussein has gotten religion and "has returned to the One God" (Wednesday, Jan. 16). The proof? Staged pictures for which Hussein posed.

And were this not enough, Mr. Meachum characterizes those Americans who fought in Vietnam as wholesale "looters and rapists" and on this basis declares that "Presidents Johnson and Nixon should have been charged with the same crimes (as Hussein), and more."

With his customary disregard of fact and rewriting of history that typify his many writings about the Middle East, Mr. Meachum says, while not mentioning the United Nations in his column, that the U.N.'s resolution that Hussein leave Kuwait, for which most of the Arab representatives voted, was "Western-dictated." He then says what is hardly a tribute to Arab belief and culture, that had Hussein complied with the U.N. resolution, in his words, "Backing down because of outside threats," that would "have deprived" Hussein "of any claim on self-worth among his people."

To invade and lay waste to a neighboring country and then withdraw in response to a decision of most of the nations of the world is not why Hussein should withdraw. It is in Meachumese because he was threatened, this and nothing else.

Thus, our grand mufti in residence tells us it is true Arabic belief that no matter how horrible a

man's crimes are, when he is told to stop, if he does he is unmanly, of no "self-worth."

Mr. Meachum attributes Hussein's taking of dictatorial powers to his "undermining Islam." This is surely one of the most imaginative descriptions of wholesale murder, including of all four of his closest associates.

Not bothering to tell his trusting readers about the U.N.'s resolution, Mr. Meachum described President Bush's and Secretary Baker's efforts to get compliance with that unmentioned U.N. resolution as "Harrassing Mr. Hussein into abandoning (sic) Kuwait."

Too bad that Mr. Meachum did not think to explain how Hussein did not lose "self-worth among his people" or anything else when he gave back to Iran all he had taken from it in eight years of a bloody and costly war.

Had he done so we might have a glimmer of why he now defends Hussein's refusal to give back what he seized by force and awesome crimes, Kuwait. But as with his glorification of all things Arabic, no matter what, there is the title of his column, "Allah has yaraf," or "God only knows."

I suppose also that there is no other explanation of why the papers continue to publish this awful, misleading and misinforming stuff, that "God only knows."

Whatever may have been the behavior of our men in Vietnam, it is not recorded that they engaged in wholesale rape, then torturing and cutting their victims up, did not rob all the banks and sources of lesser loot, did not steal all of the autos, did not strip out all the plumbing, including even the toilets, and ship all to presidents Johnson and Nixon, only some of the unspeakable crimes of the Saddamables.

For shame!

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